IN THE CLAIMS

1 (Currently Amended).   A method, comprising:

~~taking an absolute difference between data values of macro blocks by masking a number of most significant bits of said data values; and~~

~~calculating the number of most significant bits to mask.~~

~~a)   taking the absolute difference of:~~

~~1)   less than all of the most significant bits of an uncompressed video data value from a reference macro block; and~~

~~2)   less than all of the most significant bits of an uncompressed video data value from a macro block worth of data within a search window;~~

~~b)   calculating a sum of absolute differences between corresponding data values within said reference macro block and said macro block worth of data, said absolute difference being one of said absolute differences; and~~

~~c)   calculating a motion vector based upon the position of said reference macro block in a first frame and the position of said macro block worth of data in said second frame, said sum of absolute differences being a lowest sum of absolute amongst other sums of absolute differences calculated between said reference macro block and other macro blocks worth of data within said search window.~~

2 (Currently Amended).   The method of claim 23 [[1]] wherein said first frame is a current frame and said second frame is previous frame.

3 (Currently Amended).   The method of claim 23 [[1]] further comprising loading said reference macro block's data values into a register prior to said taking.

Claim 4 (Canceled).

5 (Previously Presented).   The method of claim 3 further comprising loading said search window's data values into a random access memory prior to said taking the absolute difference.

6 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 5 wherein said reference macro block's data values are uncompressed when said loaded ad said search window's data values are uncompressed when said loaded.

7 (Currently Amended). The method of claim <u>23</u> [[1]] further comprising determining which N bits from:

    1)   said reference macro block's data value's M bits; and

    2)   said search window macro block's data value's M bits

are to be used for said taking the absolute difference.

8 (Original). The method of claim 7 wherein said determining comprises:

    determining the number of most significant bits that are to be masked from both said data values;

    determining the number of least significant bits that are to be masked from both said data values.

9 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 8 wherein said determining the number of least significant bits is (M-N) – (said determined number of most significant bits).

10 (Original). The method of claim 9 wherein said determining the number of most significant bits further comprises calculating $\log_2 |2^M/\text{MaxValue}|$ were MaxValue is the maximum uncompressed video data value of said reference macro block.

11 (Original). The method of claim 9 further comprising adding an offset value to said reference macro block's uncompressed video data value and said search window macro block's uncompressed video data value.

12 (Original). The method of claim 11 wherein said offset is set equal to a minimum valued uncompressed video data value of said reference macro block.

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13 (Currently Amended).   An apparatus, comprising:

    <u>logic circuitry to take an absolute difference between data values of macro blocks by masking a number of most significant bits of said data values; and</u>

        <u>a circuit to perform a calculation to determine the number of most significant bits to mask.</u>

        a)~~logic circuitry to take an absolute difference between:~~

            1)~~less than all of the bits of an uncompressed video data value from a reference macro block;~~

            2)~~less than all of the bits of an uncompressed video data value from a macro block worth of data within a search window;~~

        b)~~a circuit to calculate a number of most significant bits to mask;~~

        c)~~a register to store said reference macro block, said register coupled to said logic circuitry; and~~

        d)~~a random access memory to store said search window, said random access memory coupled to said logic circuitry.~~

14 (Currently Amended).   The apparatus of claim <u>24</u> [[13]] further comprising additional logic circuitry to determine an offset to be added to:

    1) said reference macro block's uncompressed video data value; and

    2) said search window macro block's uncompressed video data value.

15 (Original). The apparatus of claim 14 further comprising a first adder having a first input to receive said reference macro block's uncompressed video data value and a second input coupled to said additional circuitry to receive said offset, said adder having an output that flows toward said logic circuitry.

16 (Original). The apparatus of claim 14 further comprising a second adder having a first input to receive said search window macro block's uncompressed video data value and a second input coupled to said additional circuitry to receive said offset, said adder having an output that flows toward said logic circuitry.

17 (Currently Amended).   The apparatus of claim <u>24</u> [[13]] wherein said logic circuitry is also to:

   determine the number of most significant bits that are to be masked from both said data values; <u>and</u>

   determine the number of least significant bits that are to be masked from both said data values.

Claims 18-22 (Canceled).

23 (New). The method of claim 1 wherein taking includes:

  a) taking the absolute difference of:

    1) less than all of the most significant bits of an uncompressed video data value from a reference macro block; and

    2) less than all of the most significant bits of an uncompressed video data value from a macro block worth of data within a search window;

  b) calculating a sum of absolute differences between corresponding data values within said reference macro block and said macro block worth of data, said absolute difference being one of said absolute differences; and

  c) calculating a motion vector based upon the position of said reference macro block in a first frame and the position of said macro block worth of data in said second frame, said sum of absolute differences being a lowest sum of absolute amongst other sums of absolute differences calculated between said reference macro block and other macro blocks worth of data within said search window.

24 (New). The apparatus of claim 13, including:

  a) said logic circuitry to take an absolute difference between:

    1) less than all of the bits of an uncompressed video data value from a reference macro block;

    2) less than all of the bits of an uncompressed video data value from a macro block worth of data within a search window;

  b) a circuit to calculate a number of most significant bits to mask;

c)	a register to store said reference macro block, said register coupled to said logic circuitry; and

d)	a random access memory to store said search window, said random access memory coupled to said logic circuitry.